

Message Text

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11

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SAJ-01 /051 W

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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2199

INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

HONG KONG 7372

USLO PEKING

CINCPAC HONOLULU HAWAII

USFJ YOKOTA AB JAPAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 13688

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, JA

SUBJ: LDP LEADERSHIP STRUGGLE

SUMMARY. DURING PAST TWENTY-FOUR HOURS, PM MIKI'S LATEST COMPROMISE PROPOSAL WAS REJECTED, STORMY FIVE HOUR CABINET SESSION LEAD MIKI TO DEMAND THAT HIS CABINET MEMBERS AGREE TO OPEN DIET NEXT WEEK OR RESIGN BY 5 PM SEPTEMBER 11, AND YET ANOTHER COMPROMISE PROPOSAL HAS EMERGED. END SUMMARY.

1. AFTERNOON AND EVENING OF SEPTEMBER 10 AND MORNING OF SEPTEMBER 11 SAW FRENETIC ROUND OF POLITICAL ACTIVITY HERE IN TOKYO:

--IN EARLY AFTERNOON SEPTEMBER 10, FIFTEEN ANTI MIKI CABINET MEMBERS (INCLUDING FUKUDA, OHIRA AND MIYAZAWA) MET AND AGREED TO ASK FOR MORE TIME TO CONSIDER MIKI'S COMPROMISE PROPOSAL, MADE THAT MORNING: THAT THEY AGREE TO CONVENING DIET SESSION NEXT WEEK IN EXCHANGE FOR HIS AGREEMENT TO EXTRAORDINARY LDP CONVENTION IN OCTOBER. THIER REQUEST FOR TIME WAS REJECTED.

--IN MEETING WITH LDP LEADERSHIP LASTING UNTIL EARLY EVENING, ANTI-MIKI DIET MEMBERS

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BECAUSE THERE WAS NO

ASSURANCE HE WOULD NOT DISSOLVE DIET BEFORE LDP CONVENTION.

--AT MIKI'S INSISTENCE, CABINET MEETING WAS OPENED AT 5 PM, WITH ONLY FM MIYAZAWA MISSING. (HE HAD PREVIOUSLY SCHEDULED TRIP TO HOKKAIDO TO VIEW SOVIET-HELD "NORTHERN TERRITORIES".) STORMY SESSION LASTED FIVE HOURS, WITH MIKI DEMANDING DISSIDENT MEMBERS (14 OF 20) AGREEMENT TO CONVENING DIET NEXT WEEK. THEY REFUSED. AT LAST MOMENT, JDA CHIEF SAKATA, NEUTRAL IN LEADERSHIP STRUGGLE, PROPOSED DECISION BE DEFERRED UNTIL 5:00 PM SEPTEMBER GQQM MIKI AGREED, BUT INSISTED THAT CABINET MEMBERS THEN SIGN FORMAL ORDER CONVENING DIET SEPTEMBER 16 OR (BY IMPLICATION) RESIGN.

--NEAR MIDNIGHT, ANTI-MIKI FORCES REITERATED THEIR INTENTION TO STRIP MIKI OF LDP PRESIDENCY IF HE FORCED ISSUE.

--DURING MORNING OF SEPTEMBER 11, LDP SEC GEN NAKASONE PRESENTED YET ANOTHER COMPROMISE PROPOSAL, CALLING FOR MIKI TO PLEDGE TO FULL LDP CAUCUS HE WOULD NOT PRECIPITOUSLY DISSOLVE DIET IN EXCHANGE FOR HIS OPPONENTS' AGREEMENT TO OPEN DIET SEPTEMBER 16.

--LATER SAME MORNING, CAUCUS OF MORE THAN TWO-THIRDS OF ALL LDP DIET MEMBERS, CALLED BY ANTI-MIKI LEADERS, MET TO URGE FURTHER DISCUSSIONS AND THEN RECESSED TO AWAIT MIKI'S ACTION.

2. BEFORE NAKASONE COMPROMISE PROPOSAL EMERGED SOURCES CLOSE TO MIKI WERE QUOTED AS SAYING THAT, IF ANY CABINET MEMBERS FAILED TO SIGN DIET CONVOCAION ORDER, HE WOULD FIRE THEM, PICK UP THEIR PORTFOLIOS HIMSELF, ISSUE THE CONVOCAION ORDER AND REPLACE THOSE FIRED EARLY NEXT WEEK. ANTI-MIKI FORCES, FOR THEIR PART, HAVE SET STAGE TO STRIP MIKI OF LDP PRESIDENCY IF HE FIRES ANY ANTI-MIKI CABINET MEMBERS.

3. AS OF THIS WRITING, MIKI'S 5 PM DEADLINE STILL STANDS BUT BOTH SIDES ARE CAREFULLY WEIGHING NAKASONE PROPOSAL WHICH, IF ACCEPTED, MIGHT ALSO LEAD TO QUICK SHUFFLE OF CABINET AND LDP LEADERSHIP.

SHOESMITH

NOTE BY OC/T: (#) OMISSION. CORRECTION TO FOLLOW.
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